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SANTA CLAUS CONQUERS THE MARTIANS

THE MARTIANS INVADE EARTH AND KIDNAP SANTA CLAUS!

JOSEPH E. LEVINE
PRESENTS

SANTA CLAUS CONQUERS THE MARTIANS

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SANTA CLAUS CONQUERS THE MARTIANS

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KIMAR, THE LEADER OF THE MARTIANS, IS VERY WORRIED AS HE WATCHES HIS TWO CHILDREN, BOMAR AND GIRMAR...

THIS INTERVIEW IS COMING DIRECTLY FROM THE NORTH POLE. SANTA, DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE READY BY CHRISTMAS EVE?

WE'VE NEVER DISAPPOINTED THE KIDS YET!

KIMAR PRESSES A BUTTON ON HIS BELT PANEL AND THE TELEVISION CLICKS OFF...

I TOLD YOU NOT TO WATCH THOSE SILLY EARTH PROGRAMS. GO TO BED!

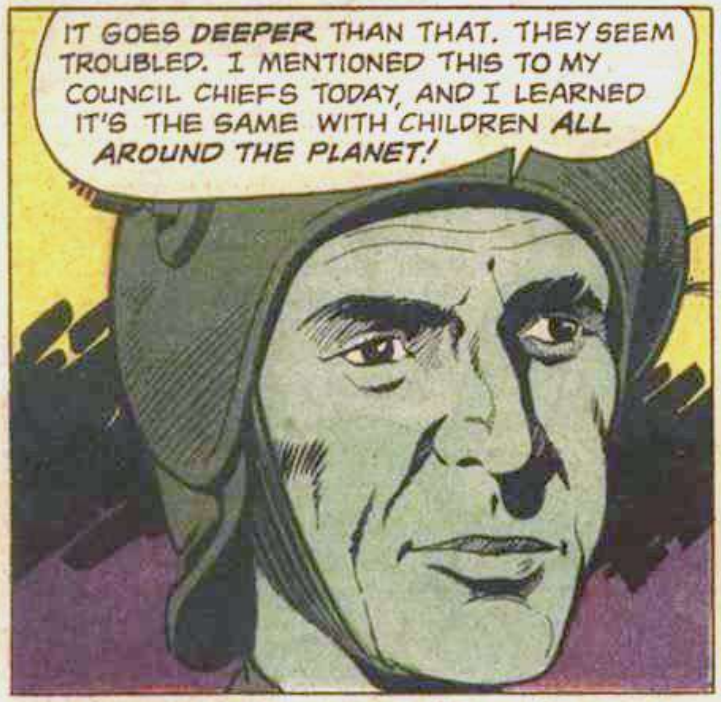
BUT I WANT TO WATCH SANTA CLAUS SOME MORE. MUST WE GO TO SLEEP NOW, FATHER?

YES, I'LL USE THE SLEEP SPRAY AGAIN!

RELUCTANTLY, THE CHILDREN LIE DOWN ON THEIR COTS. KIMAR PUSHES ANOTHER BUTTON...

INSTANTLY, THE CHILDREN FALL FAST ASLEEP...

ALL BABBA'S BOOKS COMICS



KIMAR PUSHES A BUTTON ON HIS BELT PANEL...

WHEN KIMAR REACHES THE FOREST, HIS CHIEFS ARE ALREADY ASSEMBLED...

CHOCHEM, ANCIENT ONE OF MARS, I CALL UPON YOU!

WITH THUNDERCLAP, AN OLD MAN APPEARS...

WE NEED YOUR ADVICE. SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH OUR CHILDREN. THEY DON'T EAT... DON'T SLEEP. THEIR ONLY INTEREST IS WATCHING MEANINGLESS EARTH PROGRAMS ON TELEVISION.

HMM... IT IS EARLY DECEMBER ON EARTH... CLOSE TO THE TIME OF THE ***CHRISTMAS*** WHEN THE EARTH CHILDREN EAGERLY AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF ***SANTA CLAUS*** AND HIS GIFTS.

BUT, ANCIENT ONE, WHAT HAS THIS TO DO WITH ***OUR*** CHILDREN?

WE HAVE ***NO*** CHILDREN ON MARS! OUR ELECTRONIC TEACHING MACHINES ARE ATTACHED TO THEIR BRAINS WHILE THEY ARE IN THEIR ***CRADLES***. INFORMATION IS FED INTO THEIR MINDS IN A CONSTANT STREAM. BY THE TIME THEY CAN WALK, THEY ARE ***ADULTS***. THEY HAVE ***NEVER*** HAD FUN.

WHAT DO YOU ADVISE?

THE CHILDREN ***MUST*** BE ALLOWED TO BE ***CHILDREN*** AGAIN. THEY MUST LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE ***FUN!*** WE NEED A ***SANTA CLAUS*** ON ***MARS!***

WITH A THUNDERCLAP, CHOCHEM VANISHES...

BUT ***WHERE*** CAN WE GET A SANTA CLAUS? THERE'S ONLY ***ONE*** -- AND HE'S ON ***EARTH!***

THEN WE WILL BRING HIM TO MARS. WE LEAVE FOR EARTH TONIGHT.

R-04

THAT NIGHT, A SPACESHIP CARRYING KIMAR AND HIS CHIEFS BLASTS OFF INTO SPACE. SOON...

RELUCTANTLY, VOLDAR LOOKS THROUGH HIS SCOPE...

SUDDENLY...
SIR, EARTH RADAR BEAMS ARE BEING BOUNCED OFF OUR SHIP!
VOLDAR, TURN ON THE RADAR SHIELD!

I HAVE, BUT IT'S MALFUNCTIONING!
RIGNA, CHECK THE RADAR BOX!
V-07

THE BOX IS OPENED AND...
DROPO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
UH--WELL, CHIEF...I WENT TO THE LAUNCHING PAD TO SAY GOODBY TO YOU AND THEN I REMEMBERED THAT I'VE NEVER BEEN TO EARTH. I WANTED TO SEE IT, SO--

I MAY LEAVE YOU THERE. NOW GET BELOW. I'LL DEAL WITH YOU LATER!

KIMAR RETURNS TO THE CONTROL ROOM...
PREPARE TO LAND. WE'LL SET DOWN IN THAT FIELD NEAR THE LAKE.

MEANWHILE, IN A FIELD NEAR A LAKE, TWO CHILDREN ARE TALKING...
THE ANNOUNCER ON THE RADIO SAYS OUR RADAR PICKED UP AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT. THEY THINK IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A SPACESHIP FROM ANOTHER PLANET!

MAYBE IT WAS FROM MARS, BILLY. WHAT DOES A MARTIAN LOOK LIKE?
I DON'T KNOW, BETTY. NOBODY'S EVER SEEN ONE.

I DON'T BELIEVE THERE ARE ANY MARTIANS.
YOU DON'T, HUH? WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF ONE WALKED RIGHT UP BEHIND YOU?

I'D SCREAM!

EEEE! MARTIANS!

WH-WHO ARE YOU?
WE ARE FROM MARS. DON'T BE AFRAID.

WHAT IS YOUR NAME, BOY?
BILLY FOSTER, SIR. AND THIS IS MY SISTER, BETTY.

PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP US. WE ARE TRYING TO FIND ONE OF YOUR SANTA CLAUSES. WE HAVE SEEN MANY OF THEM IN THE CITY.
OH, THOSE ARE SANTA'S HELPERS. THE REAL SANTA CLAUS IS IN HIS WORKSHOP AT THE NORTH POLE.

THAT'S WHAT WE WANTED TO KNOW! COME ON, YOU TWO! WE CAN'T LEAVE YOU HERE TO INFORM THE AUTHORITIES!
V-07

LEAVE THEM ALONE, VOLDAR. WE WILL TAKE THEM ONLY IF THEY WISH TO COME.

OH, YES...PLEASE! I WANT TO SEE SANTA CLAUS!
VERY WELL...COME ALONG!

WITH EVERYONE SAFELY ABOARD, THE SPACESHIP TAKES OFF AGAIN. SOON...

APPROACHING NORTH POLE!

PREPARE FOR LANDING. DROPO, YOU'LL STAY ABOARD AND GUARD THE CHILDREN. RIGNA, HARGO, VOLDAR... YOU'LL ACCOMPANY ME. WE WILL ACTIVATE TORG.

TORG?...TO CAPTURE A ROLY-POLY LITTLE MAN LIKE SANTA CLAUS?

WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES. WE'LL SURROUND THE WORKSHOP AND SEND TORG IN TO GET SANTA. NOBODY IS TO BE HARMED... *UNLESS* HE GETS IN OUR WAY!

BAH! NOBODY IS TO BE HARMED! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE *GREAT WARRIORS* OF OUR PLANET? MARS USED TO BE THE *PLANET OF WAR!* YOU WILL DESTROY US WITH YOUR SOFTNESS, KIMAR! SANTA CLAUS, GAMES, TOYS, LAUGHING CHILDREN...

TO YOUR POSTS!

AS SOON AS THE SPACESHIP LANDS...
TORG, COME OUT OF THE SPACESHIP! TORG!

TORG! FOLLOW ME!

SOON...
THAT'S THE WORKSHOP! COME ON!

THERE'S SANTA! GET HIM, TORG!

HO! HO! HO! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? YOU'RE THE BIGGEST TOY I'VE EVER SEEN! TURN AROUND!

OBEDIENTLY, TORG OBEYS...
VERY WELL MADE, TOO!

AT THE WINDOW...
BY THE GREAT DOG-STAR, SANTA IS TREATING TORG LIKE A TOY!
HE HAS BECOME A TOY!

WE'LL HAVE TO GET SANTA CLAUS OURSELVES! COME ON!

THE MARTIANS BURST INTO THE ROOM, RAY-GUNS DRAWN...
SANTA CLAUS, YOU'RE COMING WITH US!

NO! NO! YOU CAN'T TAKE HIM AWAY! IT'S TOO NEAR CHRISTMAS!

VOLDAR FIRES HIS GUN, AND THE HELPER SEEMS TO FREEZE LIKE A STATUE.
SPLAT!

ANGRILY, THE OTHERS MOVE FORWARD...
GET THEM!
SPLAT!
SPLAT!

IN A MINUTE, THEY ARE ALL STANDING LIKE STATUES...
WHY DID YOU DO THAT TO MY HELPERS?
IT'S HARMLESS AND WILL WEAR OFF IN A LITTLE WHILE. NOW, COME WITH US. WE NEED YOU ON MARS.

LET'S GO, OLD MAN!
V-07

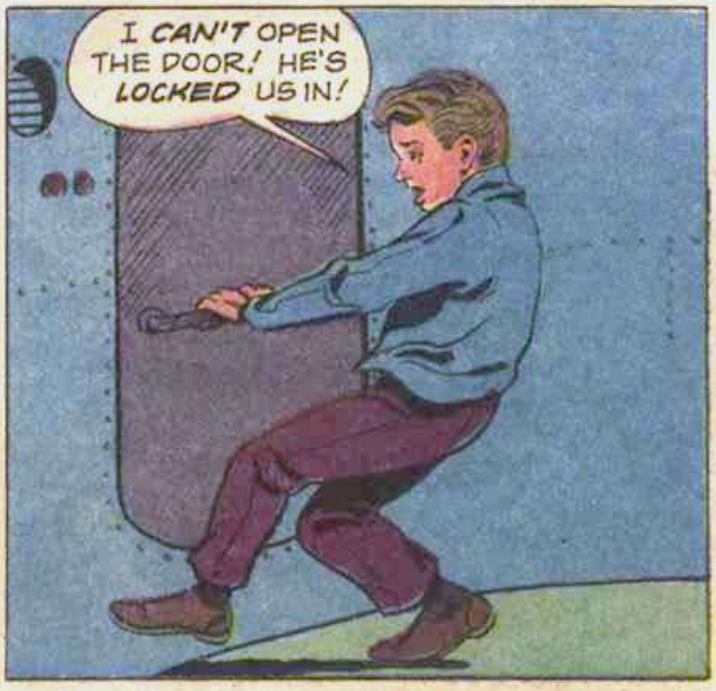
BACK IN THE SPACE SHIP, SANTA CLAUS IS PUT INTO A LOCKED ROOM WITH BETTY AND BILLY...

THEY ALL FOLLOW VOLDAR THROUGH THE VARIOUS ROOMS OF THE SHIP. THEN...
AND THIS ROOM IS IN THE AIRLOCK, THE PLACE WHERE YOU COME WHEN YOU'RE READY TO GO OUT INTO SPACE.
YOU PUT ON YOUR SPACESUIT AND GO THROUGH THAT DOOR!

WHERE'S THE CONTROL THAT OPENS THE DOOR?
UP ON THE CONTROL DECK. ONCE THE SWITCH IS PULLED, A WARNING BELL RINGS IN HERE. THEN, IN SIXTY SECONDS, THE DOOR OPENS AND YOU ARE PULLED OUT INTO SPACE!

THAT MUST BE THE DOOR-TIMER THERE.
60
45
15
30

THEY ALL TURN TO LOOK. THE SOUND OF A DOOR SLAMMING SHUT BRINGS THEM AROUND...
VOLDAR'S GONE!


I CAN'T OPEN THE DOOR! HE'S LOCKED US IN!

PERHAPS HE JUST STEPPED OUT FOR A MOMENT.
NO! HE'S NOT LIKE KIMAR AND THE OTHERS. HE'S BAD!
60
15

JUST THEN...
LISTEN! THE ALARM BELL ON THE TIMER'S RINGING!! THAT MEANS IN SIXTY SECONDS WE'LL BE SUCKED OUT IN SPACE!
RRRING!

HELP! HELP! KIMAR!
OH, SANTA! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

WHAT DID YOU SAY THIS PIPE WAS?
THE AIR DUCT. BUT IT'S TOO SMALL FOR ANYONE TO CRAWL THROUGH.

HMM...
60
45
15
30

UP IN THE CONTROL ROOM, KIMAR HEARS THE RINGING OF THE BELL...
WHO IS IN THE AIRLOCK? WHAT'S GOING ON, VOLDAR?

THEY ARE INTERRUPTED BY DROPO...
CHIEF! SANTA AND THE CHILDREN ARE MISSING!

WHERE ARE THEY?
DRIFTING AROUND IN SPACE WITH THE REST OF THE SPACE JUNK!
V-07

YOU FOOL!

A BITTER FIGHT FOLLOWS. FINALLY, VOLDAR GETS THE UPPER HAND...

BUT KIMAR REACHES OUT AND PULLS A SWITCH ON THE CONTROL PANEL. THE SPACESHIP BEGINS TO TILT SHARPLY...
K-01

KIMAR RENEWS HIS ATTACK...
K-07

FINALLY...
BEFORE I'M THROUGH WITH YOU, VOLDAR, YOU'LL WISH YOU WERE OUT THERE, DRIFTING IN SPACE!
V-07

SUDDENLY...
HO! HO! HO!
MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYBODY!

YOU...YOU'RE ALL RIGHT? I THOUGHT--
WELL, WHEN VOLDAR LEFT US IN THE AIR-LOCK AND THEN CAME UP HERE AND THREW THE DOOR-SWITCH, WE KNEW WE HAD TO CLEAR OUT OF THAT ROOM IN A HURRY!

SO WE CRAWLED THROUGH THE AIR DUCT!
V-01

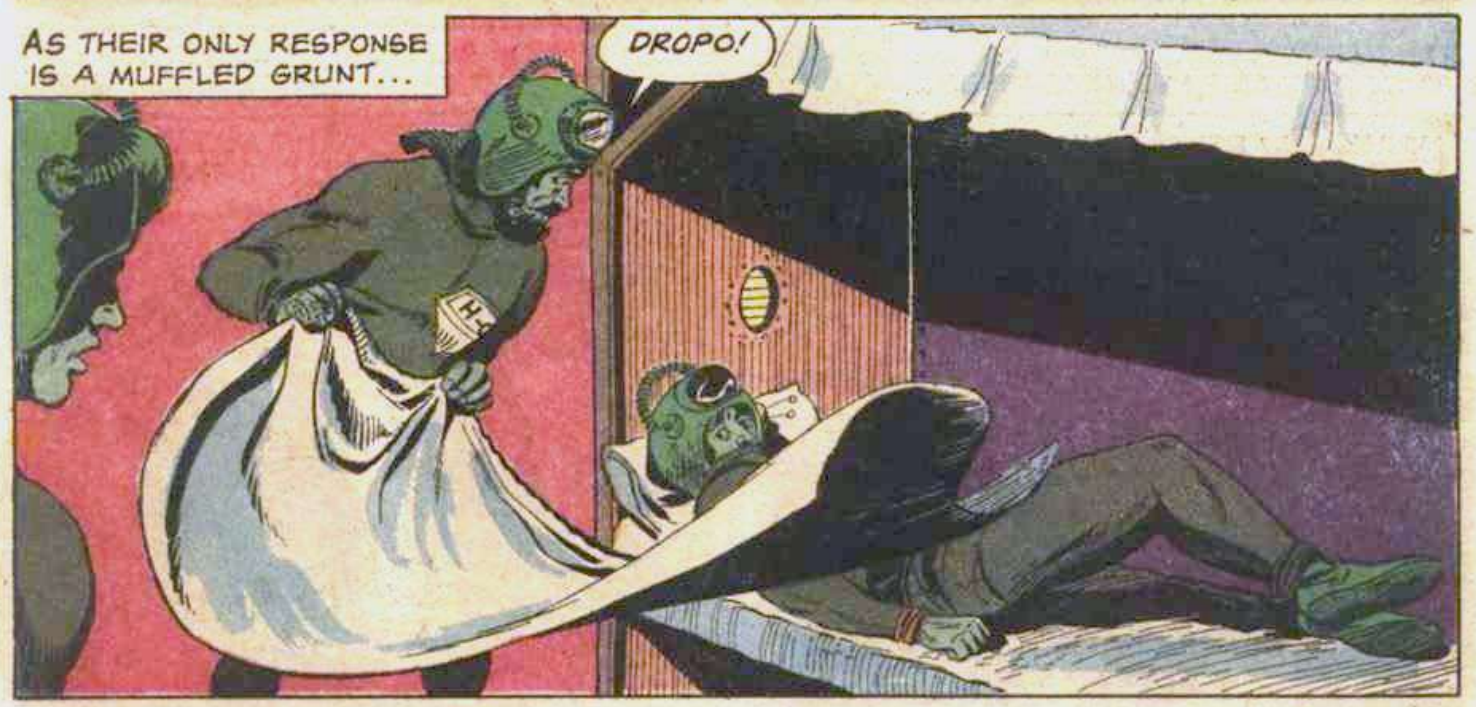
BUT HOW? THE AIR DUCT IS THIS BIG, SANTA.
HO! HO! OLD SANTA'S BEEN DOWN SOME PRETTY TIGHT CHIMNEYS!

BUT...I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
NOW YOU WOULDN'T WANT ME TO GIVE AWAY MY SECRETS, WOULD YOU?

LOOK AT VOLDAR, POOR MAN! HE'S FAINTED--JUST LIKE SOMEONE WHO'S SEEN A GHOST!

VOLVAR IS PUT INTO THE LOCKED ROOM. SOON...
WE'VE LANDED, RIGNA. YOU AND HARGO GET VOLDAR AND TAKE HIM TO THE COUNCIL ROOM. HE WILL STAND TRIAL IMMEDIATELY.
RIGHT, CHIEF.

THE MARTIANS GO BELOW...
MERRY CHRISTMAS, VOLDAR. ON YOUR FEET AND COME WITH US!


AS THEIR ONLY RESPONSE IS A MUFFLED GRUNT...
DROPO!

HURRIEDLY, THEY UNBIND THE EXCITED DROPO...
WHERE'S VOLDAR?
I WAS HANDING HIM HIS FOODPILLS THROUGH THE BARS WHEN HE GRABBED MY WRISTS AND...

RIGNA QUICKLY PRESSES THE BUTTON ON HIS BELT PANEL...
KIMAR, VOLDAR HAS ESCAPED.
THAT CAN ONLY MEAN TROUBLE. PUT A CONSTANT GUARD ON SANTA AND THE EARTH CHILDREN. I HAVE A FEELING THAT VOLDAR WILL BE BACK.

MEANWHILE, BETTY, BILLY AND SANTA ARE TAKEN TO KIMAR'S HOME...
WELCOME, SANTA CLAUS. WE HOPE YOU WILL MAKE THE CHILDREN OF MARS HAPPY.
WOULD YOU MIND STARTING WITH OUR YOUNGSTERS? THEY ARE INSIDE, STUDYING.

SO...
...AND THEREFORE THE PROPER EQUATION WOULD BE RC MINUS Y OVER 5 PI R SQUARED--TO THE 41ST POWER. NEXT EXAMPLE, TO DETERMINE THE CORRECT ORBIT...

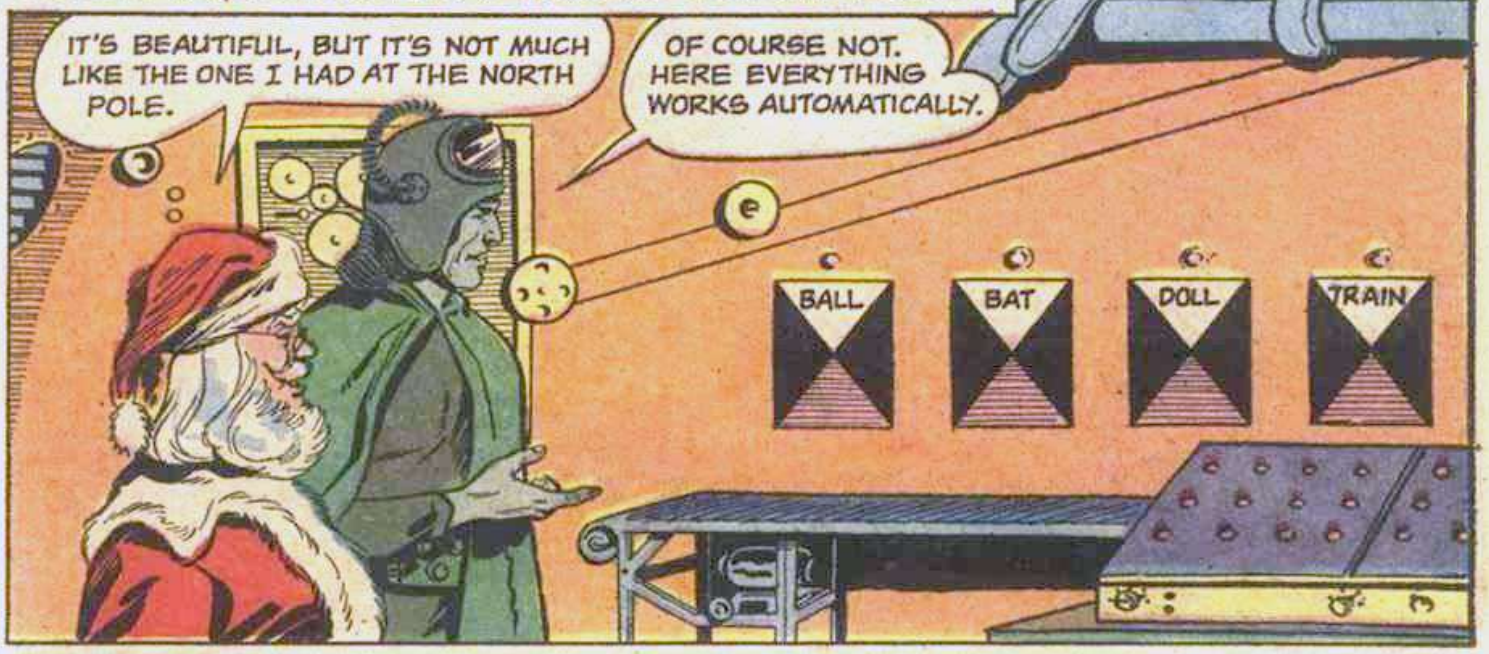
THE CHILDREN CATCH SIGHT OF THEIR VISITORS AND RISE TO GREET THEM...
BILLY AND BETTY... THIS IS BOMAR AND GIRMAR.
HI.

AND HERE IS ANOTHER EARTH PERSON WHO WOULD LIKE TO MEET YOU.
HO, HO, HA HA, HEE!

FINDING SANTA'S LAUGHTER INFECTIOUS, BETTY AND BILLY BEGIN LAUGHING, TOO. SLOWLY, BOMAR AND GIRMAR BEGIN TO SMILE.

THEIR SMILES BECOME GIGGLES AND, THEN, HAPPY ROARS OF LAUGHTER...
IT'S A MIRACLE!

THE NEXT DAY, KIMAR SETS UP A WORKSHOP FOR SANTA CLAUS...



SANTA, DROPO AND THE CHILDREN WORK BUSILY ALL DAY...

AS THEY ARE LEAVING, DROPO STOPS BESIDE A SANTA CLAUS SUIT HANGING ON A CLOTHES TREE...

DROPO GOES TO HIS ROOM. THEN, WHEN EVERYONE IS ASLEEP...
SANTA'S RIGHT. I'VE GOT TO FATTEN UP.

I CAN TRY FOOD PILLS... MALTED MILK, CHOCOLATE CAKE, BANANA SPLIT, WHIPPED CREAM...
MALT MIL
PPED EAM
BANA SPLI

NO, PILLS WILL TAKE TOO LONG. STUFFING IS WHAT I NEED.

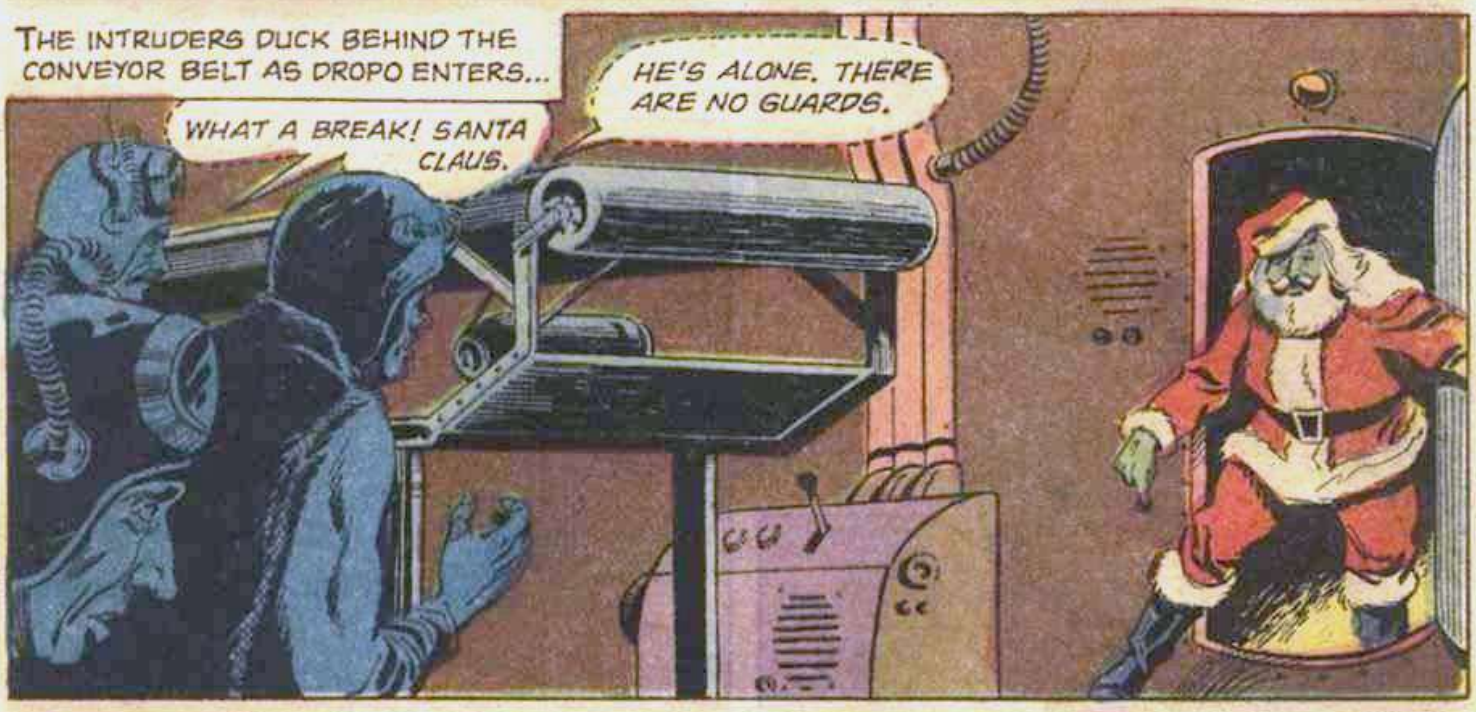
DROPO QUICKLY STUFFS TWO PILLOWS UNDER HIS COAT...
VERY GOOD. NOW, FOR A LITTLE MAKE-UP...

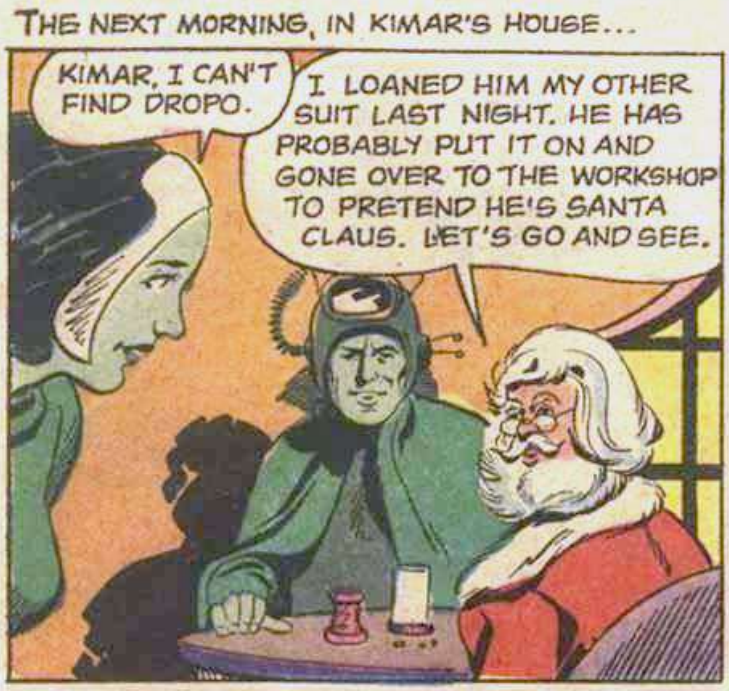
FINALLY...
HO! HO! HO! NOW I'M SANTA CLAUS. MY FINGER ISN'T TIRED. I'M GOING TO THE WORKSHOP AND MAKE SOME MORE TOYS.

BUT SOMEONE HAS REACHED THE WORKSHOP BEFORE HIM...VOLDAR, AND TWO COMPANIONS

STEALTHILY, VOLDAR OPENS THE MACHINE AND MAKES SOME QUICK CHANGES IN THE WIRING...

THE INTRUDERS DUCK BEHIND THE CONVEYOR BELT AS DROPO ENTERS...




THE NEXT MORNING, IN KIMAR'S HOUSE...
KIMAR, I CAN'T FIND DROPO.
I LOANED HIM MY OTHER SUIT LAST NIGHT. HE HAS PROBABLY PUT IT ON AND GONE OVER TO THE WORKSHOP TO PRETEND HE'S SANTA CLAUS. LET'S GO AND SEE.

BUT...
HE'S NOT HERE, SANTA.
THAT'S FUNNY. THE LIGHTS ARE ON. WELL, HE'LL TURN UP. LET'S GET STARTED.

SANTA GOES TO THE TOY MACHINE...
ONE TEDDY BEAR... AND ONE DOLL...
TEDDY BEAR

IMMEDIATELY, TWO TOYS APPEAR ...
SANTA, STOP THE MACHINE! THIS TEDDY BEAR HAS A DOLL'S HEAD!
AND THIS DOLL HAS A TEDDY BEAR HEAD.

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! LET'S TRY A BASEBALL BAT...

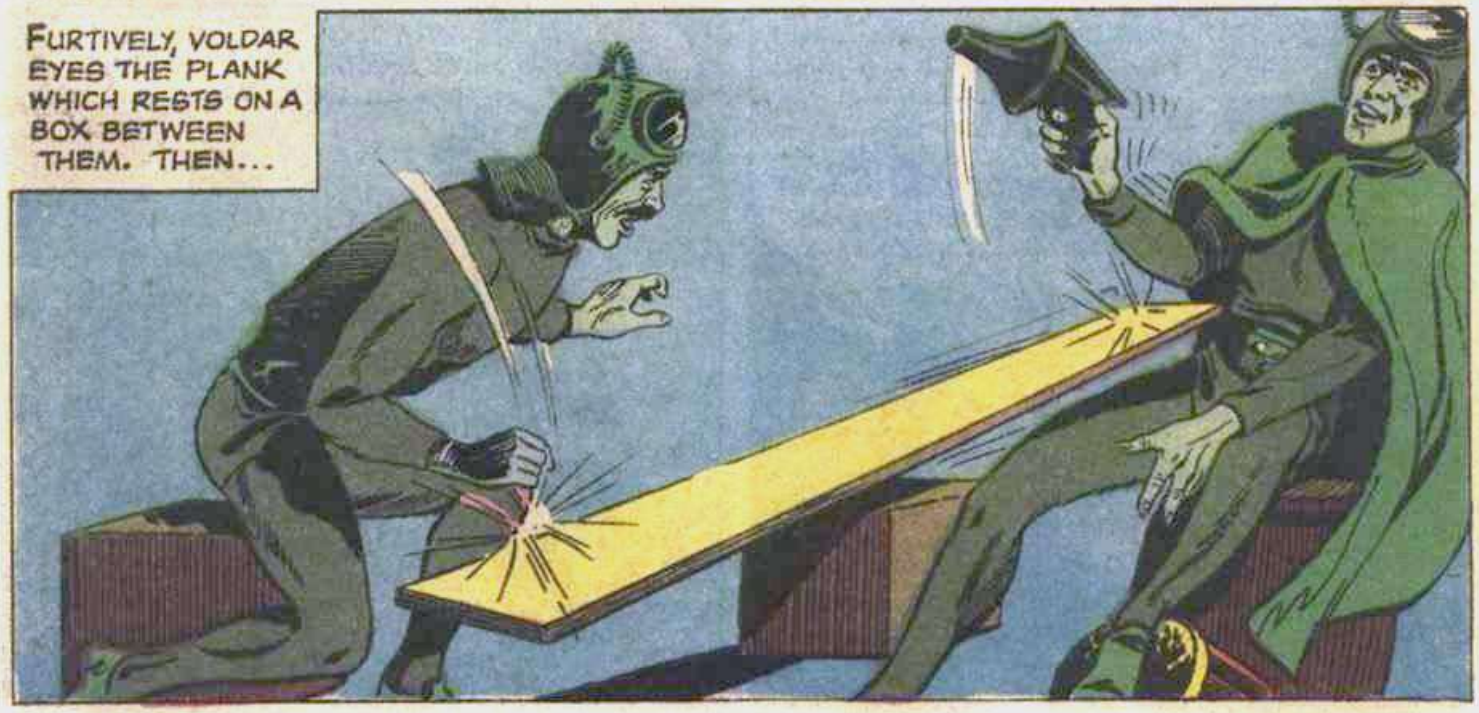
BUT...
IT'S A BAT WITH A TENNIS RACQUET HEAD. I'D BETTER CALL FATHER.

WHEN KIMAR COMES, HE PEERS INTO THE MACHINE...

SOMEONE HAS DELIBERATELY SWITCHED ALL THE WIRING. THIS, THE DISAPPEARANCE OF DROPO AND THE SANTA CLAUS SUIT...IT ALL ADDS UP TO VOLDAR!

KIMAR LEAVES THE WORKSHOP. SUDDENLY...

KIMAR OPENS THE DOOR TO THE WORKSHOP...



FURIOUSLY, VOLDAR FLINGS HIMSELF AT KIMAR...

TAKEN OFF-GUARD, KIMAR GOES DOWN BEFORE VOLDAR'S ATTACK...

IN A FEW MINUTES, KIMAR IS UNCONSCIOUS ON THE FLOOR...

BILLY, COMING OUT INTO THE HALL, OVERHEARS VOLDAR AND RUNS BACK INTO THE WORKSHOP...

MOMENTS LATER, VOLDAR ENTERS THE WORKSHOP...
HO! HO! HO! WE MEET AGAIN!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT AWAY FROM ME BEFORE, BUT YOU WON'T DO IT THIS TIME!
V-07

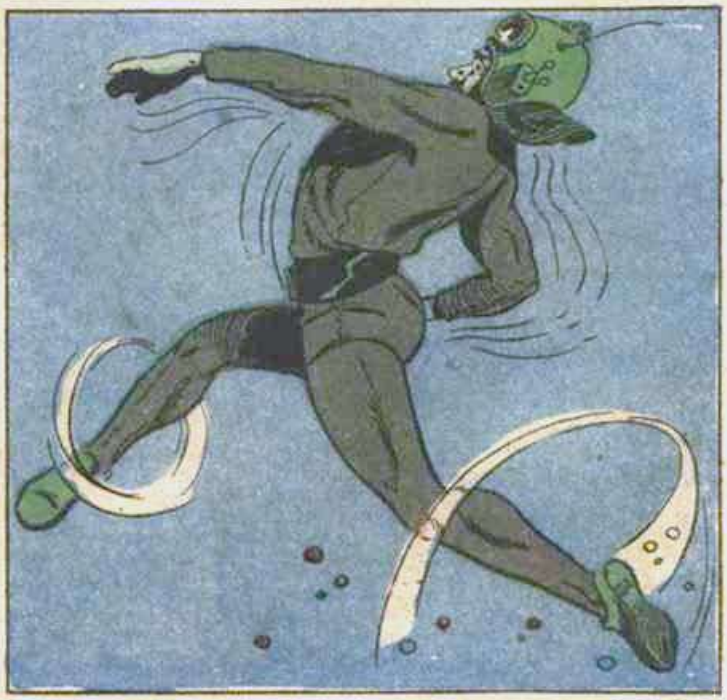
VOLDAR POINTS HIS RAY-GUN AT SANTA, READY TO FIRE. THEN...
OKAY, KIDS!
?

V-07

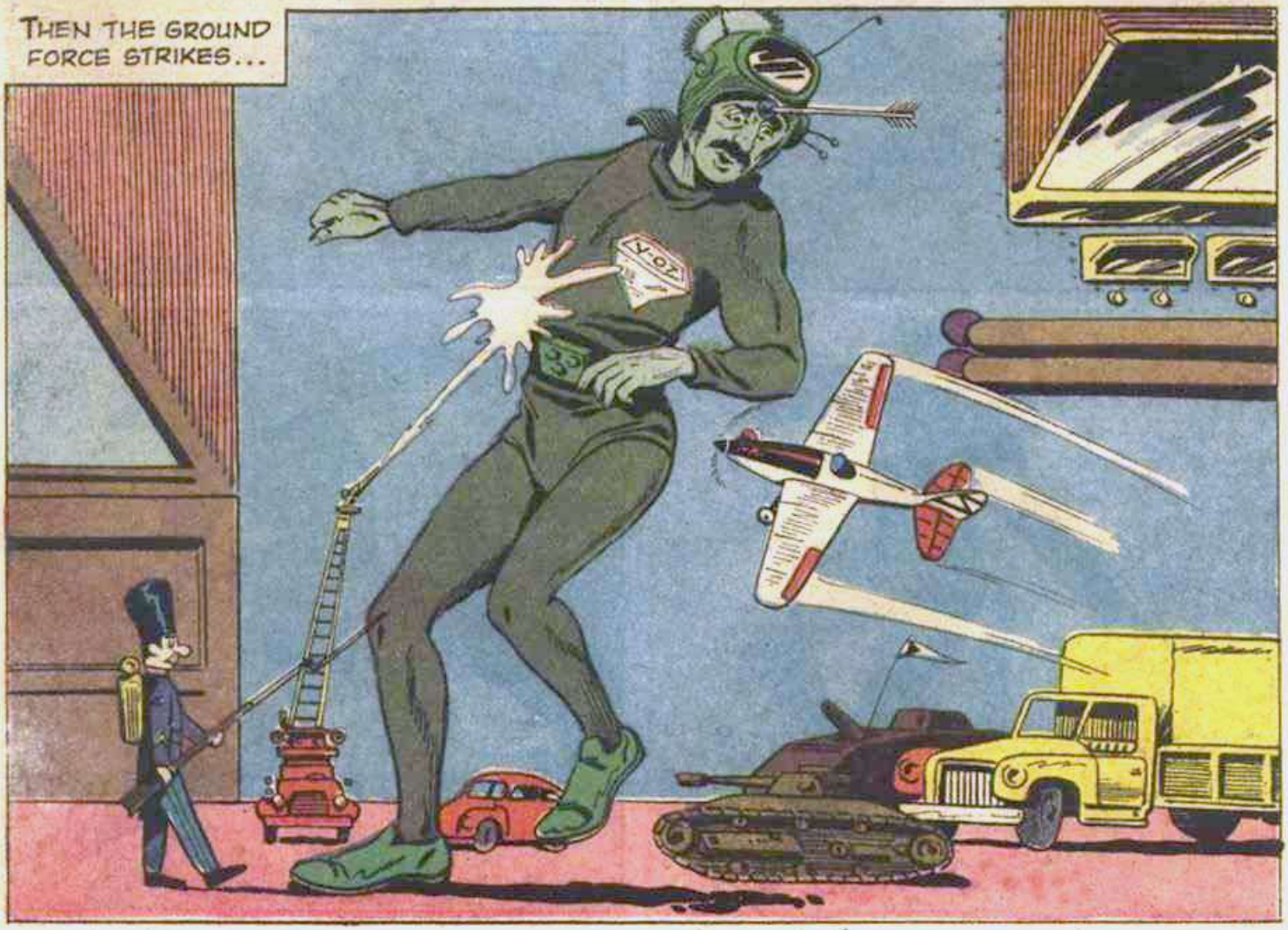
THEN...

ANGRILY, VOLDAR STARTS TOWARD SANTA CLAUS....

QUICKLY, GIRMAR ROLLS DOZENS OF MARBLES TOWARD THE ADVANCING MARTIAN...



VOLDAR NOW BECOMES THE TARGET OF AN ALL-OUT AERIAL ATTACK...
V-0


THEN THE GROUND FORCE STRIKES...
V-0Z

THEN...

ALL RIGHT, CHILDREN! YOU CAN **STOP**, NOW!

BALL

THE CHILDREN COME OUT OF THEIR HIDING PLACES, BREATHLESS AND HAPPY. SUDDENLY...

SOON, SANTA CLAUS AND THE EARTH CHILDREN ARE AT THE SPACEPORT...

GOODBY, BILLY. GOODBY, BETTY, DEAR. WE'RE GOING TO MISS YOU.

GOODBY, SANTA... THANK YOU FOR BRINGING HAPPINESS TO OUR CHILDREN.

I'VE LEFT YOU IN GOOD HANDS. MY SUBSTITUTE WILL CARRY ON FOR ME.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYBODY! **DROPO CLAUS** IS HERE!

IN A FEW MINUTES, THE SPACESHIP IS ON ITS WAY TOWARD THE PLANET EARTH TO DELIVER THE CHILDREN AND SANTA CLAUS... JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS....

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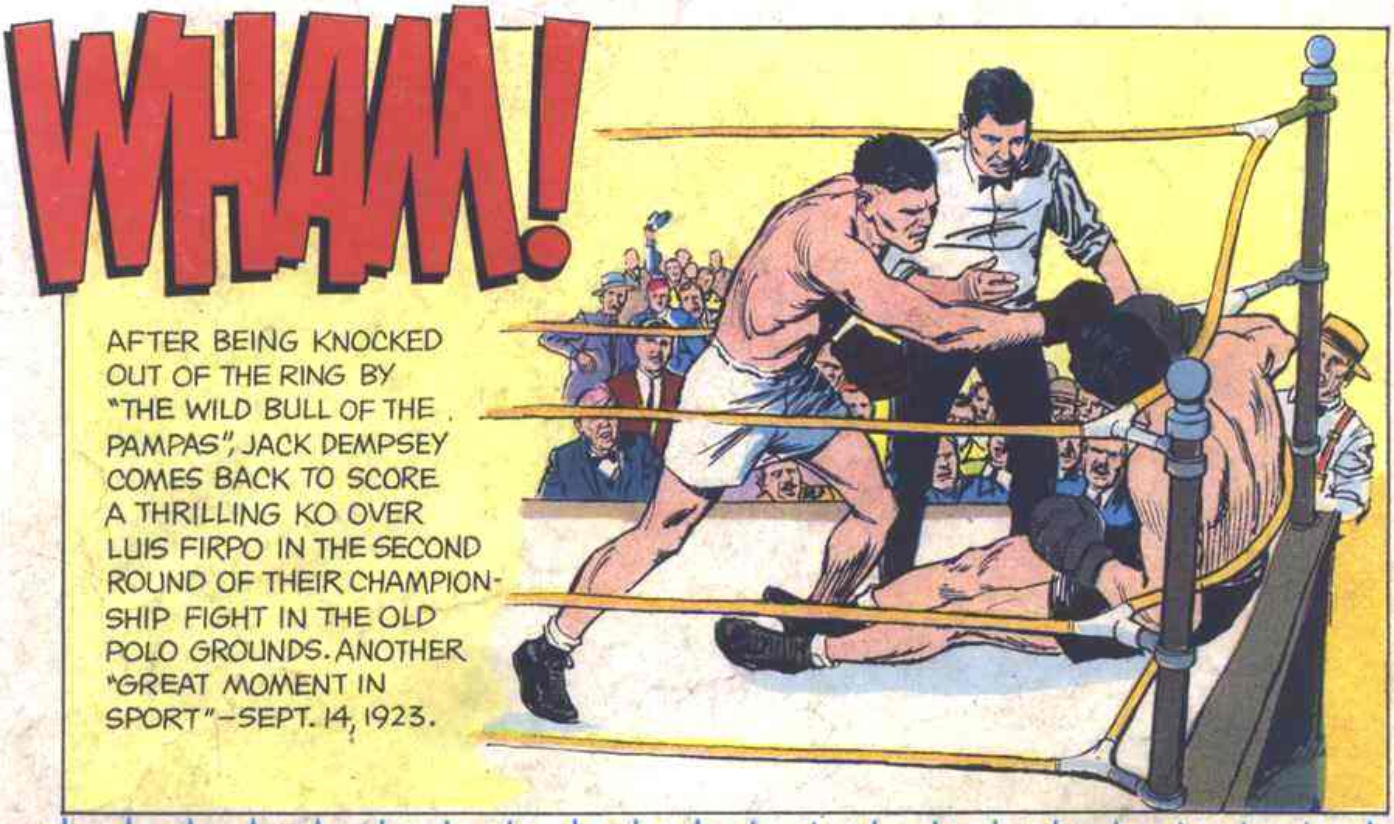

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